

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 08573 170402Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 AGR-20 OMB-01 IO-13

DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01

(ADP) W

----- 118396

P 170245Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2623

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8573

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJ: RICE FROM BATTAMBANG

REF: PHNOM PENH 8509

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE MOVEMENT OF RICE FROM BATTAMBNAG TO PHNOM PENH IS BECOMING BOGGED DOWN AS THE TWO MAIN PURCHASING AGENCIES, SORAPA AND SATRAR, HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO INDUCE LOCAL MERCHANTS IN BATTAMBANG TO SELL THEIR STOCKS. THE LOCAL RICE MERCHANTS, WITH TACIT SUPPORT OF THE BATTAMBANG GOVERNOR, CONTINUE TO HOLD STOCKS IN ANTICIPATION THAT ALREADY ADEQUATE PROFITS WILL PERHAPS BE DOUBLED OR TRIPLED AT A LATER DATE. AS THE GOVERNOR CONTINUES TO BE THE KEY TO THE RELEASE OF MORE RICE, THE AMBASSADOR SENT TODAY AUGUST 16 THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO LON NOL.

"AS YOU RECALL, APPROXIMATELY A MONTH AGO YOU SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNOR OF BATTAMBANG REQUESTING HIS ASSISTANCE IN ASSURING THAT A MINIMUM OF 20,000 M/T OF RICE BE PURCHASED AND TRANSPORTED TO PHNOM PENH. SINCE THAT TIME SOME 12,000 M/T OF RICE HAVE BEEN SHIPPED TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 08573 170402Z

PHNOM PENH, WHICH REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD

THAT GOAL.

ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THE REMAINING 8,000 M/T OF BATTAMBANG RICE (OR RICE EQUIVALENT IN PADDY) COULD BE BROUGHT TO PHNOM PENH WITHOUT ENDANGERING SUPPLIES OF RICE NEEDED FOR THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POPULATION IN THE BATTAMBANG AREA. I AM ADVISED, HOWEVER, THAT SORAPA AND SATRAR ARE ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING PURCHASES OF RICE IN BATTAMBANG AND THAT LITTLE ADDITIONAL RICE WILL BE BROUGHT TO PHNOM PENH UNLESS VIGOROUS ACTION IS TAKEN BY THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES IN BATTAMBANG.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS SIGNED ANOTHER P.L. 480 AGREEMENT ON AUGUST 13 UNDER WHICH WE WILL SUPPLY YOU ANOTHER 35,000 M/T OF RICE FROM U.S. STOCKS. THIS IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. IT IS BEING PROVIDED IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THE KHMER REPUBLIC IS DOING ALL IT CAN TO MEET ITS OWN RICE NEEDS. THE FURTHER SHIPMENT OF BATTAMBANG RICE TO PHNOM PENH WILL BE CRUCIAL TO THE MAINTENANCE OF AN ADEQUATE STOCK LEVEL IN THE CAPITAL UNTIL THIS NEW P.L. 480 RICE ARRIVES. MAY I THEREFORE URGE YOU ONCE AGAIN TO INSTRUCT THE GOVERNOR OF BATTAMBANG TO ASSIST IN THE PROCUREMENT AND SHIPMENT OF 6,000-8,000 M/T OF RICE TO THE CAPITAL.

I AM ADVISED THAT THE NEED FOR RICE IN PHNOM PENH IS SUFFICIENTLY GREAT TO WARRANT EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES, INCLUDING THE REQUISITION OF STOCKS (AGAINST ADEQUATE COMPENSATION) TO MEET REQUIREMENTS."

SWANK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RICE, SUPPLIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973PHNOM08573  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS SWANK  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** PHNOM PENH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730831/aaaaawoo.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** PHNOM PENH 8509  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 NOV 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RICE FROM BATTAMBANG  
**TAGS:** EGEN, EAID, CB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005